



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

**José de Jesus Rivera**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 6, 2000**

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
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# **Flagstaff Man Sentenced to Federal Prison For Internet Distribution of Child Pornography**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- LAWRENCE WHITEMAN**, 30, of Flagstaff, Arizona, was sentenced today to 51 months imprisonment for distribution of child pornography on the Internet. **WHITEMAN** is the first defendant to be charged, in federal district court in the District of Arizona, and convicted of being a “distributor” rather than a collector of child pornography. Following his prison sentence, the defendant will be on 3 years of supervised release under the guidance of the U.S. Probation Office. He will be required to register as a sex offender and to undergo sex offender therapy.

**WHITEMAN** was indicted by a federal grand jury on June 3, 1999, on one count of Transportation of Child Pornography, one count of receiving Child Pornography, and one count of Possession of Child Pornography.

On April 17, 1998, an undercover detective working with an FBI Task Force in Los Angeles, California, made responded to the defendant’s advertisement to distribute pornography in a “chat room”. The defendant ran an “F-serve” which allowed the defendant to automatically offer pornography, including child pornography, to anyone who contacted him. The computer program operated without the need for the defendant to be present during these transactions. His sub-directory included the categories “incest”, and “pre-teen” which included images of children

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(some as young as three) engaged in explicit sexual acts with adult men. The defendant offered a number of free images. However, after those images were downloaded a “customer” would have to send an image to the defendant’s computer in order to receive more images so that the defendant’s collection could continue to grow. The agent downloaded a number of images of child pornography from the defendant’s computer which included titles “mom and me, inces(sic) and babyas.”

On February 19, 1999, a search warrant, based on the undercover operation was executed at the defendant’s residence. The defendant’s computer containing a number of images of child pornography were seized.

**WHITEMAN** pleaded guilty to all three counts of the Indictment on February 7, 2000.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by FBI Task Force in Los Angeles, and the FBI Mountain Eagle Safe Street Task Force in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The prosecution was handled by Vincent Q. Kirby, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-99-00417-PCT-PGR

RELEASE NUMBER: 2000-061

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